



Old time dancing

PLEDGE: Premier Mike Rann and Jane Lomax-Smith at the announcement for the upgrade of the entertainment precinct at the Adelaide Convention Centre and Adelaide Oval yesterday.
 Picture: CALUM ROBERTSON

Rann moves to attract lucrative grey vote

POLITICAL REPORTER

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AGED and disabled people will be given a \$6.2 million boost to help them live independently, including rebates for personal alert devices and an expanded home visit scheme, Labor has pledged.

Premier Mike Rann today will announce the spend, which will deliver rebates of up to \$380 to about 2400 people for the installation of emergency alert devices and up to \$250 per year to help pay for the monitoring service.

An estimated 25,000 extra home visits also are anticipated.

"Older South Australians want and deserve the right to feel safe and secure," Mr Rann said.

"The more we talk to families... the overriding message we get is they are concerned about the vulnerability of their mum or dad, or

aunt or uncle, being at home alone.

Minister for Ageing Jennifer Rankine denied the scheme was motivated as a cost shifting measure to keep the elderly and disabled out of tax-payer funded care. "Personal contact through home visits is another way of making sure elderly people are not isolated, and are kept engaged and stimulated in the world around them," she said.

Yesterday, Opposition Leader Isobel Redmond pledged \$8.7 million during her first term to help more than 20,000 self-funded retirees pay for rising utility costs.

The funding is on top of the almost \$71 million pledged by the Government to boost concessions for age pensioners and low income concession card holders.

It will include an annual \$100 payment to those self funded retirees eligible for the Commonwealth Seniors Health Card.

"As the cost of living continues to spiral, this initiative will provide much-needed financial support to those who need it most," she said.

"South Australia's seniors have made enormous contributions to our state and deserve to be supported."

Woodville resident Gena Scopizze, 87, said her personal alert device allowed her greater freedom and she could be forced into supported care without it. "Should something happen to you, you can call and they're straight away here," she said yesterday.